



CARE OF STORM-DAMAGED TREES AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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Immediate repair and proper care of shade trees or ornamental plants can save many of these valuable plants.

Some ornamentals, especially small ones, which were blown over by high winds or that are still standing at a slant, may be righted again without loss of the plant. Do this as soon as possible before the disrupted roots dry out and while the soil is still moist.

Return the plant to an upright position. A block and tackle or a commercial winch truck may be used to bring large trees to an upright position. They should be guyed and staked to hold them in place. Small plants may be supported from the side opposite the direction they fell. Larger trees or shrubs with trunks over 2 inches in diameter will require two or more guys or stakes. Roots should be straightened out beneath the soil or pruned back if they are too large to bury or if they are damaged. Last, the soil should be tamped tightly around the replaced roots to close air pockets. The top should be pruned rather severely, thinning out many of the side branches to reduce growing points and lessen wind resistance. If stubbing back is necessary, follow-up pruning is necessary to thin out some of the sucker growth which may follow. If necessary, remove more growth from the side of the plant opposite the stakes or guys to lessen the weight on that side.

Broken limbs of trees should be pruned back to a main scaffold branch or to the central trunk. Cuts on trees should be made with a sharp saw and made flush to a side branch or to the trunk, making certain that no stubs are left. The freshly cut surface should be coated with orange shellac, especially around the outer edge, followed by a coat of pruning paint or an asphalt base paint.

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